

DECEMBER 2011

Calhoun Chronicle

FEBRUARY 2012						
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Crunch time: tips for testing

by Chelsea Larsen
Staff Writer

Leap day is approaching on Feb. 29.

A leap year takes place every four years. A revolution around the sun (one year) takes 365.25 days, so to solve the problem of the extra .25 of a day each year, scientists decided to add a day every four years to even it out.

When did we start having Leap Years? Back in the days of Ancient Egyptians and Romans. The Egyptians first thought up the Leap Day idea, and later, the Romans adopted and spread it.

A few famous people such as Ja Rule (rapper), Pope Paul III, Al Rosen (baseball player) and Cullen Jones (swimmer) were all born on Leap Day.

Although nothing special happens on Feb. 29, they did make a movie about it. The movie is about an old Irish tradition when women propose to their significant others on Leap Day. The main character lady of the story follows her boyfriend on his business trip to surprise propose to him. When she arrives for her surprise visit, she finds that her boyfriend is cheating on her and ends up falling in love with somebody completely different.

Don't miss the scientifically balancing day and try to make your own special Leap Year tradition.

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The Calhoun Chronicle is
a student-run publication



2011

For podcasts and pictures go to:
<http://fchsnewsblog.yolasite.com>

**We have
PODCASTS!!**





Junior Ana Lehman uses her iPad in the morning to finish school work.
Photo by Maggie Christianson

Prom Prep Right Around the Corner

by Brooke Ohrt
Staff Writer

Getting hair done, tanning, tux fittings, last minute setting up and shopping are events that students from Fort Calhoun High School are doing to prepare for "A Night in Vegas" prom on March 24.

Prom coordinator Karli Johnson explains what the main projects are to get the night in Vegas to be a success. "The prom committee does the planning, and the junior class does the setting up. The prom committee plans things like picking theme, the colors, the invites, the crowns, and the song," Johnson explained.

But is there going to be enough time?

"As far as struggling to be 100% prepared, I think we'll be good. The only thing would be running out of time, but so far we are on track," Johnson said.

At another angle of prom prep, girls plan for weeks or sometimes months, to get ready for prom. Boys on the other hand, worry about who they're going to ask on a date.

"I've kind of started getting ready for prom. I've already had my dress for a week," says senior Josie Babin. "My favorite part about getting ready for prom is getting ready all day. I like spending the whole day getting ready and not being rushed," Babin explains.

Senior Tyler Genovesi gives us the guys' perspective on prom. "I haven't started getting ready for prom yet. I will start probably three or four weeks before."

Typically it's the guys who don't enjoy getting ready for prom.

"I don't really enjoy it," Genovesi says. "It's kind of a hassle."

Is all this preparation worth it? You get to decide at "A Night in Vegas" on March 24.

Calhoun Chronicle Staff

Ali Boyd	Emily Lewis
Maggie Christianson	Gabby Mears
Stephenie Dale	Evan Melbourne
Connor Dethlefs	Jesse Nelson
Starr Farris	Amanda O'Keefe
Lisa Harnack	Brooke Ohrt
Julie Hofer	Emily Shannon
Jordan Hudson	Adam Swartz-Brown
Chelsea Larsen	Katlynn Hale

And the Oscar goes to...

by Jordan Hudson
Staff Writer

Excitement is in the air as cinema's best of the best are showcased at the 84th Annual Academy Award Show on Feb. 26.

The Oscar Award Show started in 1929 and is one of the most prominent and prestigious movie award shows. From the ornate gowns to the flowy hair, each celebrity will show up at their best anxiously awaiting to see if they will receive any awards.

Some of the major awards are Best Picture, Actor in a Leading Role, Actress in a Leading Role and Animated Feature Film. There are 24 awards total; some are more popular and well-known than others like Sound Editing, Sound Mixing and Visual Effects.

The nominations for Best Picture this year include: "The Artist", "The Descendants", "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close", "The Help", "Hugo", "Midnight in Paris", "Moneyball", "The Tree of Life" and "War Horse". As of now "The Artist" is in the lead when looking at many critics' predictions. Just last month it was heralded Best Film of 2011 by the New York Film Critics Circle.

The nominations for Actor in a Leading Role are Demian Birchir, George Clooney, Jean Dujardin, Gary Oldman and Brad Pitt. Actresses up for nomination are Glenn Close, Viola Davis, Rooney Mara, Meryl Streep, and Michelle Williams.

This year it is going to be a close race for both the actors and actresses. George Clooney and Jean Dujardin are neck-and-neck in the predictions. Meryl Streep and Viola Davis are close contenders, too. People are not sure which actor will pull ahead for the awards.

To make you own predictions for the Oscars this year fill out the ballot inside the Calhoun Chronicle. Make it a competition with your friends. Then tune into ABC on Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. to watch this years Oscars.



Sophomore Breann Ohrt shops with her grandma to buy Christmas gifts for the "Adopt a Family" program.

Photos by Brooke Ohrt

Valentines Day: A Hallmark Holiday?

by Adam Swartz-Brown
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day, a day that makes you think of love and chocolates, when in reality it stands for questionable martyrdom and the attempted destruction of a way of belief. Valentine's Day is a time to spend with your loved one or more likely to get a bunch candy.

Valentine's Day's history is as strange as most holidays. Are they risen from superstition or from the Catholic Church attempting to undermine the native rituals with Catholic festivities? You decide.

There are many who believe that Valentine's Day has become too commercialized. Mr. Hatcher is one of them, "[I] think it's a waste of time and money, and is commercialized into something it isn't".

Valentine's Day is now no longer focused on girlfriends and spouses but at any girl that you know in the slightest such as sisters, daughters and even coworkers. Flowers, such as roses, are a great gift, though double in price. And, of course, you're able to find literally anything in a heart shape and pink.

All of these things seem to have outshone the religious origins parts of the holiday. This became apparent when Russel Robinson, senior, said, "I didn't know about a religious aspects to Valentine's Day."

There are many stories about how Valentine's Day came to be. One of them was that the man named Saint Valentine was in jail and put to death. He left a letter to the jailer's daughter which was signed, "Your Valentine". The reason that Saint Valentine was in jail and put to death was that he was presiding over marriages, which was unfortunately illegal.

Yes, marriage was illegal, due to the fact that Emperor Claudias II made it that way. Why did he make marriage illegal? He wanted more men for his army, and he thought the reason they didn't join was because they wanted to stay with their spouses. Two hundred years later the Pope set aside Feb. 14 in honor of Saint Valentine.

So the next time you think of Valentine's Day, remember the origin isn't rooted in chocolates and hearts, think death and creepy letters. Happy Valentine's Day.

It's Here Again: Mr. Calhoun

by Ali Boyd
Staff Writer

It is the time of year again for Mr. Calhoun. This is an event where a group of senior guys show off their talents to become the school's number one senior guy. It takes place on Sunday, February 26th this year. "I think it's a fun fundraiser, and I like to see the contestants have fun and laugh at each other, because everyone has a good time also," says Mrs. Shields.

This year's lineup of charming young men include Spencer Mink, Tyler Tietz, Jeffrey Hofer, Brendan Gepson and Dex Jensen. (Tyler Genovesi, Connor Dethlefs, Jake Shaefer, Chris Skwarek, Jordan Ratay, Russell Robinson maybe)

The guys are all anxious and excited to show off their amazing talents. Ladies man Brendan Gepson is a real charmer. "I think the contest will be interesting," says Gepson. "I hope to win."

While Gepson is very anxious for his talent, contestant Chris Skwarek feels excited also. "I hope people will like my talent," says Skwarek.



A store display shows the over commercialization of Valentine's Day with pink and red decorations from floor to ceiling. image by google.com

This Movie or That One?

by Steph Dale
Staff Writer

Would you do anything for love? The main couple in "The Vow" would and will do anything for their love. Channing Tatum ("G.I. Joe") and Rachel McAdams ("The Notebook") co-star in this romantic drama as Leo and Paige, husband and wife.

The two had a perfect marriage until they got into a car accident. It caused Paige to lose some of her memory, including the memories she had with her husband. In this heartbreaking, fuzzy feeling movie, you get to see that love is real.

"The Vow" is based on a true story and was released on Feb. 10 to local theaters everywhere. I got a few chuckles out of the movie, and it didn't end the way I expected it to. It almost ended abruptly, so I would give this movie a B rating.

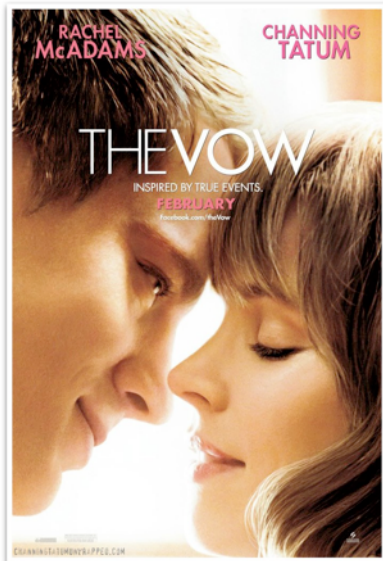


Photo courtesy of ???



Photo courtesy of ???

Nick gets accused for stealing a huge, priceless diamond; therefore, he is sentenced for 25 years in prison. He comes up with a plan to prove his innocence, and one of the first steps is to stand on a ledge. While Nick is standing on the ledge, Joey and Angie are doing the dirty work of finding the diamond. Will the diamond be there when they show up, or will it be gone?

The whole movie builds up to this answer. "Man on a Ledge" kept my friends and I on our toes and is worth seeing. Since the plot is so intense, I give this movie an A- rating.

"Games" is a winner

by Adam Swartz-Brown
Staff Writer

A fight for your own survival comes at the expense of destroying others. That's what the novel "Hunger Games" is about.

"Hunger Games" is about a young woman named Katniss Everdeen who is picked to represent District 12 in the Hunger Games. The Hunger Games is a contest between the 12 districts where they pick one girl and one boy by lottery, and then these tributes are shipped to a specially designed arena to replicate deserts or forests. The contest will end when there is only one person alive out of the 24 tributes.

Katniss is the main character who for the last four years has been taking care of her family by hunting and selling meat. Then, Katniss's little sister is picked in the lottery, so she takes her place instead. She, along with Peeta Mellark, to whom Katniss owes her life, are put on a train headed to the capital. During the trip the two are shown by TV who their competitors are. Most of the other tributes are normal except for the ones from Districts 1, 2 and 4 - they are tributes trained to be the best. After they arrive at the capital, they are prepared for the openings, which is quite the festival to open up the massacre. Fortunately Katniss and Peeta put on a literally blazing performance that may help them to survive.

Before the contest begins, all the tributes are able to demonstrate their abilities and then ranked upon skill level. After the skill points are presented, there is a party for every tribute, but they will need their rest, for in the morning it's time to play. Let the games begin.

"Hunger Games" is the first of a three-novel series written by Suzanne Collins. The others are "Catching Fire" and "Mockingjay."

Spring Sports

by Julie Hofer

Staff Writer

With the nice weather, lots of people are already out practicing sports like golf, track and baseball. The Fort Calhoun golf team is looking forward to a promising year, the track team is hoping to do well in meets and the baseball team is hoping to grow in their second season.

The Fort Calhoun golf team has three or four strong seniors hoping to do well at tournaments and even go to state. Seniors Jeffrey Hofer, Connor Dethlefs and Alec Willey are returning lettermen with the hopes to go to state.

"My goal is to place at tournaments and go to state," says Hofer, "and my goal for the team is to place at districts."

Last year the team was close to doing some great things at tournaments, and this year Mrs. Shields has some new goals.

Shields states, "I would like to have at least one person medal at each tournament and send at least one person to state."

There are some new players on the golf team this year, and Shields is hoping to have everyone improve and do their best. Sophomore Katie Edie and freshman Sabrina Hernandez have signed up this year and are the only two girls on the team.

Away from the course, the track team is also hoping to do some great things this year. They have a few returning state qualifiers Kellon Johnson, junior, with seniors Amber Linnenbrink and Shannen Ramey.

Two of our strongest track and field athletes who graduated last year are Stephen Green and Hannah Mays. Hopefully, sophomore Brianna Namuth can do a good job to replace Mays' spot on the throwing team this year.

The track team's conference will be a challenge this year. Arlington has moved out and some hard teams have moved in.

With last year being the first year, baseball is hoping to have a better season under a new head coach. This is the second year of our schools baseball program and Mr. Wemhoff is hoping to have some great things happen this year.

"I am excited for the new coach, because he has a lot of baseball background, he is energetic and he knows what he is doing. For a sport like baseball you need that kind of coach, he is passionate about baseball and that is what we need," says Wemhoff.

Run Your Heart Out!

by Emily O'Keefe

Staff Writer

Senior Shannon Ramey laces up her shoes eager to start her daily run.

Ramey returning state qualifier in the 3200 mile run and placed 8th, is pumped for this track season. Senior Amber Linnenbrink qualified last year in the 100 and 300 hurdles. She won 1st place in the 300 hurdles. She is a record

holder in the 300 and now the 100 hurdles. "I hope it goes well, I trained all winter" says Linnenbrink. Amber's goals for this season are to win all class champion in the 300 hurdles and run in the 43 second time zone. She plans on pursuing track in college at UNL.

Junior Kellon Johnson qualified for state in the 800 meter run where he placed 15th.



Top: Jeffrey Hofer playing to win.
Bottom: No pic yet.

Juniors Maddie Westergard and Lucas Lazure show off their basketball skills in a recent game.



Winter sports are anything but chilly

by Connor Dethlefs
Staff Writer

Winter sports are underway again at the “Fort”. All signs are pointing to successful seasons for the boys basketball, girls basketball and wrestling teams.

The boys basketball team started out with a huge win in the first regular season game. On Dec. 1, they traveled to Platteview to win, 60-41, against the Class B school. Senior Connor Dethlefs and junior Kellon Johnson led the team in scoring, both with 13 points.

The team was able to follow that up on Dec. 5 for the school’s first-ever win against Syracuse, winning 50-36. Junior Jordan Kann led the team with 18 points and six steals.

On Dec. 9 the boys played DC West at home and prevailed 84-70. Four players were in double-digit figures in scoring.

The girls basketball team shot only 18% from the two-point range and lost in a low-scoring game against Platteview, 35-26, on Dec. 1. Junior Maddie Westergard led the team with 14 points.

The girls got back on the winning track beating Syracuse 48-33. Westergard scored 21 points to led the team once again, and junior Brooke Ohrt led the defensive charge with eight steals.

The girls also pulled out a win against DC West on Dec. 9 to get their second win in a row.

The Pioneer wrestling team’s first meet of the season was on Saturday, Nov. 3. They traveled to Bennington for a tournament. They had a rough showing, finishing 10th of 11 teams. Sophomore Gage Hartline was the only medalist, earning 3rd place in the 170 lbs. weight division. With seven returning lettermen and two returning state qualifiers, the wrestling team expects great results.

"New Year" gets fair review

by Stephenie Dale
Staff Writer

The crowd begins to cheer as the famous New Year's Eve ball drops in New York. The countdown begins and "HAPPY NEW YEAR" is yelled across the city!

The movie "New Year's Eve," which came to theatres on Dec. 9, celebrates everything in a typical lifetime: love, hope, forgiveness, second chances, death, self-reflection and fresh starts. It tells intertwining stories about what people do in New York City before the start of a new year.

The movie has a lineup of famous actors and actresses including Robert De Niro ("Meet the Parents"), Zac Efron ("17 Again"), Josh Duhamel ("When in Rome"), Abigail Breslin ("No Reservations"), Katherine Heigl ("The Ugly Truth"), Ashton Kutcher ("No Strings Attached"), Halle Berry ("Catwoman"), Chris "Ludacris" Bridges ("Crash") and singer John Bon Jovi.

Overall, I thought the movie was good, and if you're in need of an uplift, you should go see it. The movie was comical and interesting to see how everything tied together. However, there was a tearjerker part; therefore, I give it a B+.



Photo courtesy of watchfilm.com

"Fort" selects favorite Holiday movies

by Adam Swartz-Brown

Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of amazon.com

The results are in. Listed below are the Top 10 Holiday movies chosen by your peers and teachers.

1. *It's A Wonderful Life*
2. *Elf*
3. *The Polar Express*
4. *Home Alone*
5. *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer*
6. *The Santa Clause*
7. *How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)*
8. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
9. *How The Grinch Stole Christmas (animated)*
10. *A Christmas Story*

Festive Foods

by Jordan Hudson
Staff Writer

The ovens are heating up, the mixers are coming out, and the kitchens are wafting the aroma of baked goods. It's time for holiday baking.

From sugar cookies to Oreo balls, there is an endless amount of decadent treats to enjoy throughout the holidays.

Many people have different preferences as to what their favorite holiday treats are.

"I love angel food cake because it just reminds me of the holiday season," junior Shilee Erwin says.

Junior Brooke Linnenbrink excitedly says, "I love the seven layer Jell-O because my mom only makes it on special occasions, so when Christmas comes around I get excited!"

Everybody has different preferences as to what their favorite holiday treats are, but one thing remains the same: they are all delicious and filled with special memories.

Oreo Balls

Ingredients:

1 package Oreos (not Double Stuff)
1 8-oz package cream cheese
1 package almond bark

Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, combine crushed cookies and cream cheese to form a stiff dough. Roll into balls and dip with a fork in melted candy coating. Let rest on waxed paper until set. Enjoy!

Cheddar's inviting exterior foreshadows a pleasant dining experience inside.
Photo courtesy of
norwoodinteractive.com



Cheddar's prices and food aren't cheesy

by Emily Shannon
Staff Writer

If you're looking for great food, a friendly staff and reasonable prices, Omaha has endless options. Where do you go if you're looking for all of those things plus a calm environment and generously portioned meals? Cheddar's, 12152 L St., is the place to go.

I have been to Cheddar's twice and have thoroughly enjoyed my food both times I've visited. The first time I ate at Cheddar's, I ordered a cup of baked potato soup. It was delicious and looked small, but was very filling if you're not too hungry.

My second time at Cheddar's I ordered a Crispy Chicken Salad. The salad cost only \$7 but gave me mixed reviews. The salad was more than I could eat in one sitting. The chicken on the salad was excellent, but the dressing was far from perfect. The honey mustard dressing wasn't sweet at all. As a matter of fact, it tasted more like mustard than honey mustard.

Chocolate shakes were for dessert. They were creamy with just the right amount of chocolate. We shared 2 shakes among four people. The metal tin that came with the shakes had enough of the shake left over to refill the glass.

Cheddar's can get pretty crowded no matter what the day. I recommend going before 5 p.m. if you don't want a long wait.

The staff is very friendly and extremely helpful at Cheddar's. I have rarely been to a restaurant multiple times and had two different waitresses who were as friendly as the two who served us. The service was also very quick. Our meal came out to us about 5-10 minutes after we ordered.

Overall, my dining experience at Cheddar's was great and I would recommend it to anyone who wants a modern American Fare restaurant with great food. I give it a 4.5/5 stars.

Sweet Tooth for Charity

By Emily Lewis
Co-Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year! December is by far the month with the most spirit.

To help get students get in the giving spirit this holiday season Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Student Council held a candy cane fundraiser.

For the past three years, these two clubs have organized this fundraiser for students and teachers so they can send candy canes with an attached to a friend, sibling or secret admirer.

"I LOVE CANDY CANES," said an eager student.

So if you are stumped on what gifts to buy a friend this holiday season, buy a candy cane. Not only are the candy canes cheap, two for \$1, but the money goes to a good cause .

The candy canes were sold from Dec. 12-16. This year the FBLA and Student Council raised over \$200.

All money goes to the Siena/Francis House, which provides emergency overnight shelter and food to men, women and women with children.

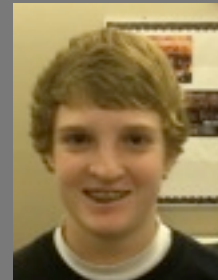


Juniors Jonas Kessler and Shilee Erwin and sophomore Katie Edie prepare candy cane orders for distribution to students and teachers.

Photo by Emily Lewis

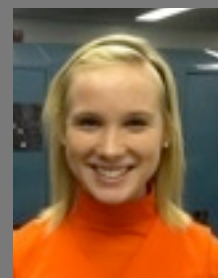
We Ask, You Tell

What's your favorite holiday tradition?



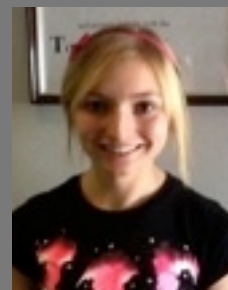
"Opening presents on Christmas."

-Peyton Griesert, freshman



"Watching for the reindeer in the sky."

- Anna Koenecke, sophomore



"Hide pickle in the tree. Everyone tries to find it, whoever finds it gets the present, and hides the pickle next year."

- Shilee Erwin, junior



"Having pizza, cider, and peppermint ice cream while putting up the Christmas tree."

- Jeffrey Hofer, senior

Caption Contest

You've seen the images hanging up around school. Hopefully, you wrote a creative caption. Below are some of the winning entries. Keep your eyes open for more images and enter the next caption contest.



Vince Hartline
Dino-"Freeze, Frenchy."
Dog-"I swear it's not mine; it's that English fella."

Shea Kister
Dino-"Come at me, bro."
Dog-"I ain't even mad."

Dan Sill
Dog-"Don't hurt me Mrs. Wellman-High Horse. You're only mad 'cause you're prego!"
Dino-"Rawr!"

Emilie H. & Brielle M.
Dog-"Come at me, bro."
Dino-"Yo, dude that's salty."